WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An information input apparatus comprising:

imaging means for shooting images of objects;

5   memory means for storing the images shot by said imaging means;

reproducing means for reproducing the images stored in said memory means;

control means for controlling the storage of 10 the images shot by said imaging means into said memory means, and the reproduction of at least a predetermined one of the images stored in said memory means, by said reproducing means;

first instruction means for instructing said 15 controlling means to store the images shot by said imaging means to said memory means; and

second instruction means for instructing said reproducing means to reproduce at least a predetermined one of the images stored in said memory 20 means;

wherein said control means stores in said memory means the images shot by said imaging means when there is an instruction from said first instruction means to store in said memory means the images shot by said 25 imaging means, while said reproducing means is reproducing a predetermined one of the images instructed by said second instruction means.

2.   The information input apparatus described in Claim 1, wherein said control means overwrites the image 30 shot by said imaging means in a predetermined area of said memory means in which the predetermined one of the images that said reproducing means is reproducing is recorded, when there is an instruction from said first instruction means to store in said memory means the 35 images shot by said imaging means, while said reproducing means is reproducing a predetermined one of the images instructed by said second instruction means.

3. The information input apparatus described in Claim 2 further comprising display means for displaying the images shot by said imaging means and the image stored in said memory means.

4. The information input apparatus described in Claim 3 further comprising illumination means for illuminating light onto the object.

5. The information input apparatus described in Claim 4 further comprising sound input means for inputting sound, wherein said memory means stores the sound input from said sound input means.

6. The information input apparatus described in Claim 5 wherein said memory means stores and relates the images and sounds.

7. The information input apparatus described in claim 1 wherein while said reproduction means is reproducing an image, the data for the image being reproduced is set to an erasable condition while a newly shot image is recorded.

8. An method for inputting image information comprising the steps of:

shooting images of objects;

storing the images shot in a memory;

controlling the storage of the images shot into memory, and the reproduction of at least a predetermined one of the stored images, according to:

(a) a first instruction for instructing the storage of the images shot to memory; and

(b) a second instruction for instructing the reproduction of at least a predetermined one of the images stored in memory;

wherein said step of controlling stores in memory the images shot when there is the first instruction to store in memory the images shot, while said step of reproducing is reproducing a predetermined one of the images instructed by the second instruction.

9.　　The method described in Claim 8, wherein said step of controlling overwrites the image shot in a predetermined area of memory in which the predetermined one of the images being reproducing is recorded, when the first instruction instructs to store in memory the images shot, while said step of reproducing is reproducing a predetermined one of the images instructed by the second instruction.

10.　　The method described in Claim 9 further comprising the step of displaying the images shot and the image stored in memory.

11.　　The method described in Claim 10 further comprising the step of illuminating light onto the object.

12.　　The method described in Claim 11 further comprising the steps of inputting sound, and storing the sound input in memory.

13.　　The method described in Claim 12 further comprising the step of relating the images and sounds in memory.

14.　　The method described in claim 8 wherein while said reproduction of an image, the data for the image being reproduced is set to an erasable condition while a newly shot image is recorded.

15.　　An information input apparatus comprising:

an imaging part for shooting images of objects;

a memory part, connected to said imaging part, for storing the images shot by said imaging part;

a reproducing part, connected to said memory part, for reproducing the images stored in said memory part;

a control part, connected to said memory part and said reproducing part, for controlling the storage of the images shot by said imaging part into said memory part, and the reproduction of at least a

predetermined one of the images stored in said memory part, by said reproducing part;

an instruction part, connected to said control part, for instructing said controlling part to-

store the images shot by said imaging part to said memory part according to a first instruction, and

reproduce at least a predetermined one of the images stored in said memory part, according to a second instruction;

wherein said control part stores in said memory part the images shot by said imaging part when there is an instruction from said instruction part to store in said memory part the images shot by said imaging part, while said reproducing part is reproducing a predetermined one of the images instructed by said instruction part.

16. The information input apparatus described in Claim 15, wherein said control part overwrites the image shot by said imaging part in a predetermined area of said memory part in which the predetermined one of the images that said reproducing part is reproducing is recorded, when there is the first instruction from said instruction part to store in said memory part the images shot by said imaging part, while said reproducing part is reproducing a predetermined one of the images instructed by said instruction part, according to the second instruction.

17. The information input apparatus described in Claim 16 further comprising a display part for displaying the images shot by said imaging part and the image stored in said memory part.

18. The information input apparatus described in Claim 17 further comprising an illumination part for illuminating light onto the object.

19. The information input apparatus described in Claim 18 further comprising a sound input part for inputting sound, wherein said memory part stores the sound input from said sound input part.

20. The information input apparatus described in Claim 19 wherein said memory part stores and relates the images and sounds.

21. The information input apparatus described in claim 15 wherein while said reproduction part is reproducing an image, the data for the image being reproduced is set to an erasable condition while a newly shot image is recorded.